Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Bay — the largest estuary in the U.S. — is an encredibly complex ecosystem that includes important habitats and food webs.

Sustainable development is…





Chesapeake Bay Program Regional Partners and communities are dedicated to restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Partnerships include federal and state governments, academic institutions, and non-government organizations. Partners work to reduce nutrients and toxins, restore fisheries and habitats, and recover Bay grasses.

The Bay supports more than 3,600 species of plants, fish and animals, including:

- 348 species of finfish
- 173 species of shellfish
- 2,700 plant species

The Chesapeake is a commercial and recreational resource for 15.7 million people.

Goals for success include:

- Increase native oysters tenfold by 2010
- Reopen 2200 kilometers of streams to migratory fish by 2003
- Restore 3800 kilometers of streamside forests by 2010
- Correct all nutrient and sediment problems by 2010
- Expand public access points by 30 percent by 2010

www.chesapeakebay.net

Federal partners actively sustaining the watershed include:

- Department of Agriculture
- Geological Survey
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of the Interior
- Smithsonian Institution
- Department of Defense

Partnerships facilitate:

- Land-grant university research
- Public policy education
- Cropland assistance
- Livestock production
- Habitat restoration
- Farmland protection
- Nutrient management
- Woodlands management
- Pollution abatement

The Potomac Watershed Partnership engages groups and individuals to do restoration work on a major tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. www.potomac.org

Habitat restoration projects bring together communities to restore polluted and damaged habitats.
noaa.chesapeakebay.net/habitat/hab_projects.htm

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center conducts long-term ecosystem analyses at the land/sea boundary. The analysis of the life cycle and ecology of the Blue Crab is important to a viable commercial industry. www.serc/si.edu







